



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

UNITED STATES SURGICAL,
A DIVISION OF TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP
150 GLOVER AVENUE
NORWALK CT 06856

COPY MAILED

SEP 20 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Robert H. WHAM et al. :
Application No. 10/626,390 : DECISION ON PETITIONS
Filed: July 24, 2003 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND (a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. 2155 CIP 2A(203- :
3398CIP2A)

This is a decision on the petitions under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed July 12, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petitions are **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The prior formerly pending nonprovisional application No. 10/073,761 was filed during the pendency of nonprovisional application No. 09/408,944, and the prior formerly pending nonprovisional application No. 09/408,944 was filed on September 30, 1999, which is within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/105,417, which was filed on October 23, 1998, for which priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed

nonprovisional and provisional applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

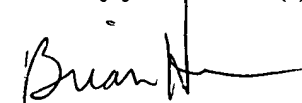
The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed provisional application was submitted during the pendency of the prior nonprovisional application through which benefit is sought. See 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and (a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to prior-filed nonprovisional application No. 09/408,944 and provisional application No. 60/105,417 is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to David Bucci at (571) 272-7099. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 3739 for appropriate action on the amendment submitted July 12, 2004, including consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § §120 and 119(e) of the prior-filed nonprovisional and provisional applications.



Brian Hearn
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT : Corrected Filing Receipt